

News Release



For Immediate Release

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POINT MUGU STATE PARK WHALE FESTIVAL

Ventura/LA Counties - On Sunday, March 9, 2008 from 9am - 4pm, the 12th Annual Point Mugu State Park Whale Festival will be at Sycamore Cove in Point Mugu State Park. This event celebrates the annual migration of the gray whale and its successful return from the brink of extinction. Whale appreciation and marine awareness are the themes of the day. Live entertainment, marine conservation information booths, whale-watching stations, arts and crafts for children, activities, music and food are all a part of the day's events. Experienced naturalists at last year's festival helped participants view and identify several gray whales and a large pod of bottlenose dolphin right from the beach!

A raffle for whale watch excursions and other prizes will be throughout the day. Many different marine agencies including the Ventura County Maritime Museum, Heal the Bay, and ORCA Marine Life Rescue Group will have booths to help interpret their role in marine conservation. Look through a microscope with Pepperdine University to view phytoplankton – the tiny marine plants that produce the oxygen you breath! A free, fun and educational passport for children and their families will be available to highlight the learning opportunities of the day; prizes will be given for the completion of the passport. Local marine artists/photographers will display their works for purchase.

No admission fee will be charged. However, there is a \$10 day-use parking fee to park in the lots at Sycamore Canyon and at Leo Carrillo State Park. The event will be held at Sycamore Cove, only 5 miles north of Ventura/Los Angeles county line on Pacific Coast Highway. Free shuttle service is available from the parking lots at Mugu Beach (5 miles north of Sycamore Cove on PCH) and at Leo Carrillo State Park (6 miles south of Sycamore Cove on PCH.)

The event is partially accessible with a limited number of sand wheelchairs available to be checked out. The event is sponsored by the Santa Monica Mountains Natural History Association and the Ventura County Star. For more information, call (805) 488-1827.

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California State Parks on the Internet: <http://www.parks.ca.gov>